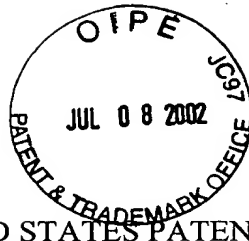


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
MAREK NARUSZEWICZ : EXAMINER: MARX, I.
SERIAL NO: 09/787,893 :
FILED: APRIL 26, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651
FOR: REDUCTION OF OXIDATIVE :
STRESS FACTORS

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 8, 2002, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in light of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-10 and 12-14.

Please amend the claims as follows:

11. (Amended) A method of reducing the levels of at least one oxidative stress factor in the blood of a mammal, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective amount of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v.

07/11/2002 BNGUYEN1 00000030 09787893

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